

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 OMB-01 /058 W

----- 032045

O 150934Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4233

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8833

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: NEWS CONFERENCE OF PRIDA PHATTHANATHABUT AND PRACHA KUNAKASEM ON U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA

PRIDA PHATTHANATHABUT, THE MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; AND PRACHA KUNAKASEM, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HELD A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 15. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF THEIR COMMENTS ON U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA:

PRIDA: AMERICAN MARINES WERE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY, WITHDRAWN TO THE SHIP CORAL SEA.

REPORTER: WHAT KIND OF SHIP IS THAT?

PRACHA: I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER. THE AMERICAN MARINES WERE WITHDRAWN TO THAT SHIP IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY.

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REPORTER: COMPLETELY?

PRIDA: COMPLETELY. THEY HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN ALREADY.

REPORTER: THIS MORNING? AT WHAT TIME?

PRIDA: THEY INFORMED US THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WAS IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY.

REPORTER: DON'T YOU HAVE THE EXACT TIME?

PRIDA: WE DON'T HAVE THE EXACT TIME. THEY INFORMED US THAT IT WAS IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY.

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT? IS IT OURS AND DID WE CHECK IT UP OURSELVES, OR IS IT FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE?

PRIDA: FROM EVERY SOURCE, MANY SOURCES, AND EVERY REPORT FROM EVERY SOURCE WAS CHECKED UP ON. WE CHECKED UP ON THE REPORT FROM ONE SOURCE, THEN ON A REPORT FROM A SECONS SOURCE, AND ON A REPORT FROM A THIRD SOURCE, AND CHECKING UP SHOWED THAT REPORTS FROM ALL THREE SOURCES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.

REPORTER: WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF THOSE REPORTS?

PRIDA: OUR OWN SOURCES. REPORTS FROM MILITARY SOURCES.

REPORTER: HAS THE UNITED STATES INFORMED US OFFICIALLY? I MEAN U-TAPAO. IN ADDITION TO THE CHECK UPS WE HAVE MADE, HAS IT INFORMED THE THAI GOVERNMENT OF THE RESULT OF THE PROTEST WE MADE TO IT?

PRACHA: THE SOURCES OF THE REPORTS WHICH MR. PRIDA, WHO IS CABINET MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, OBTAINED ARE FROM THE THAI MILITARY, FROM THAI INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, AND FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALSO. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOURCE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, INFORMING US IT HAS COMPLIED WITH OUR REQUEST ALREADY. I HAVEN'T GONE TO THE MINISTRY YET, BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN HERE WITH MR. PRED. SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING. I UNDERSTAND THE MINISTRY WAS INFORMED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

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REPORTER: WHERE ARE THE MARINES GOING? WHAT IS THEIR DESTINATION?

PRACHA: THEY ARE STILL ON AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, IN THE OCEAN. I DON'T KNOW YET.

REPORTER: HAS IT INFORMED US THAT THEY HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN?

PRIDA: IT HAS SAID THAT THEY HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN.

PRACHA: IT WAS ONLY A DISPLAY OF MIGHT STILL REMAINING IN THIS REGION. THEY WERE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY. ONLY 1100 MEN CAN BE EASILY WITHDRAWN IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE.

REPORTER: THERE IS A REPORT THAT THESE MARINES WHO HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN TO THE SHIP CORAL SEA WILL STAGE A LANDING ON TANG ISLAND.

PRACHA: I HAVE NOT RECEIVED THAT REPORT YET.

PRIDA: I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THAT YET. PLANES HAVE BOMBED CAMBODIA. THOSE PLANES TOOK OFF FROM A BASE IN THE U.S. 7TH FLEET, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, NOT FROM THAILAND.

REPORTER: FROM WHERE?

PRIDA: FROM A BASE IN THE U.S. 7TH FLEET, FROM AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER OF THE U.S. 7TH FLEET, NOT FROM THAILAND. AND THAT AIRCRAFT CARRIER IS OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE THREE SHIPS WHICH WERE SUNK?

PRIDA: THOSE THREE SHIPS WHICH WERE SUNK WERE OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS ALSO.

PRACHA: THERE IS A NEWS REPORT PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS STATING THAT THOSE PLANES TOOK OFF FROM A BASE IN THAILAND. WE HAVE CHECKED UP ON THAT ALREADY, AND WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY OUR MILITARY SOURCES THAT THEY DID NOT TAKE OFF FROM A BASE IN THAILAND, THAT THEY TOOK OFF FROM AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER OF THE U.S. 7TH FLEET IN
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INTERNATIONAL WATERS. WE ARE CHECKING UP AT PRESENT WHERE THEY TOOK OFF FROM FOR CERTAIN, BECAUSE THERE ARE SEVERAL AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN THIS AREA.

PRIDA: THE FACT THAT THREE SHIPS WERE SUNK HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THREE SEPARATE REPORTS.

REPORTER: WHAT KIND OF PLANES WERE USED?

PRIDA: WE HAVEN'T ASKED.

REPORTER: WILL THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUE A STATEMENT?

PRACHA: THE STATEMENTS WHICH MINISTER PRIDA IS MAKING NOW ARE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE NAME OF THE PRIME MINISTER, IN THE NAME OF

THE GOVERNMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER IS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AT PRESENT. THERE ARE TWO REPORTS OF IMPORTANCE (1) AMERICAN MARINES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN ALREADY. (2) THE PLANES WHICH BOMBED AND SUNK THREE SHIPS DID NOT TAKE OFF FROM A BASE IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: WILL AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT BE ISSUED ON THE FACT THAT AMERICAN MARINES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN ALREADY?

PRACHA: WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT? THE CABINET MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IS GIVING YOU A NEWS CONFERENCE NOW IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT.

REPORTER: HAS ANY CONTACT BEEN MADE WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY?

PRIDA: WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT ALL THE TIME.

REPORTER: HAS IT GIVEN US ANY EXPLANATION?

PRIDA: NOTHING, SO FAR."

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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